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IMAGERY
ANALYSIS
DIVISION

PIR

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SOVIET GOLD MINING

Declass Review
by NIMA/DOD

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CIA/PIR 65060

DATE DEC 1965

COPY

PAGES 13

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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SOVIET GOLD MINING

An analysis of the four gold mining areas specified in the referenced requirement is as follows (See Figure 1):

NIZHNIY KHURANAKH - This area was observed on [] Mission [] and consists of a large concentrator, an open-pit mine and a possible shaft mine. Extensive placer mining has occurred in the stream immediately east of Nizhniy Khuranakh (See Figures 2, 3 and 4).

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The concentrator measures approximately 180' x 305' and appears to be completed except for a small section in the southeast corner of the building. The area around the concentrator is heavily scarred, shows evidences of open trenches and contains six and possibly seven small support-type buildings. No tanks or settling ponds were observed anywhere in the area.

NURATIN MOUNTAIN RANGE - A search of this area failed to reveal any trenching, new villages or other indications of geological exploration or mining (See Figure 5).

The mountain range does show evidences of grass cutting, which accounts for the extensive and unusual light-toned patterns observed on the southern slopes.

ZHOLYMBET - This area was observed on [] photography which revealed a concentrator building, two open-pit mines, a possible alluvial mine with concentration facilities and miscellaneous support facilities (See Figures 6 and 7).

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The main concentrator, located near the large open-pit mine, measures 240' x 245' and has its own steam plant which was observed in operation in []. The two largest buildings located at the probable alluvial mine may also be concentrators. These structures measure approximately 135' x 140' each. No settling tanks could be detected at any of the concentrators.

MURUNTAU MOUNTAIN - A comparison of the latest coverage [] with that used in CIA/IAD Report 30472-5 [] shows no significant change in either the housing area, support base or mining operation (See Figures 8, 9 and 10). Six barrack-type buildings were erected in the southeast part of the housing area, and evidences of new geological exploration were noted approximately four

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kilometers east of the housing area. This new trenching covers a relatively small area and is not presently significant. A small increase in the amount of dark-toned spoil was observed at several mine sites southwest of the support area. No new shafts or other construction was evident at the mines.

There continues to be an apparent absence of any ore concentration facility, suggesting that ore is hand-sorted and shipped elsewhere for processing.

All measurements were made by the CIA/IAD project analyst and should only be considered as approximate.

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

USAF Operational Navigation Chart, Sheets E-6, F-5 and F-6, 1st Ed.,
April 1961, April 1965 and May 1965, respectively, Scale 1:1,000,000
(CONFIDENTIAL)

REQUIREMENT

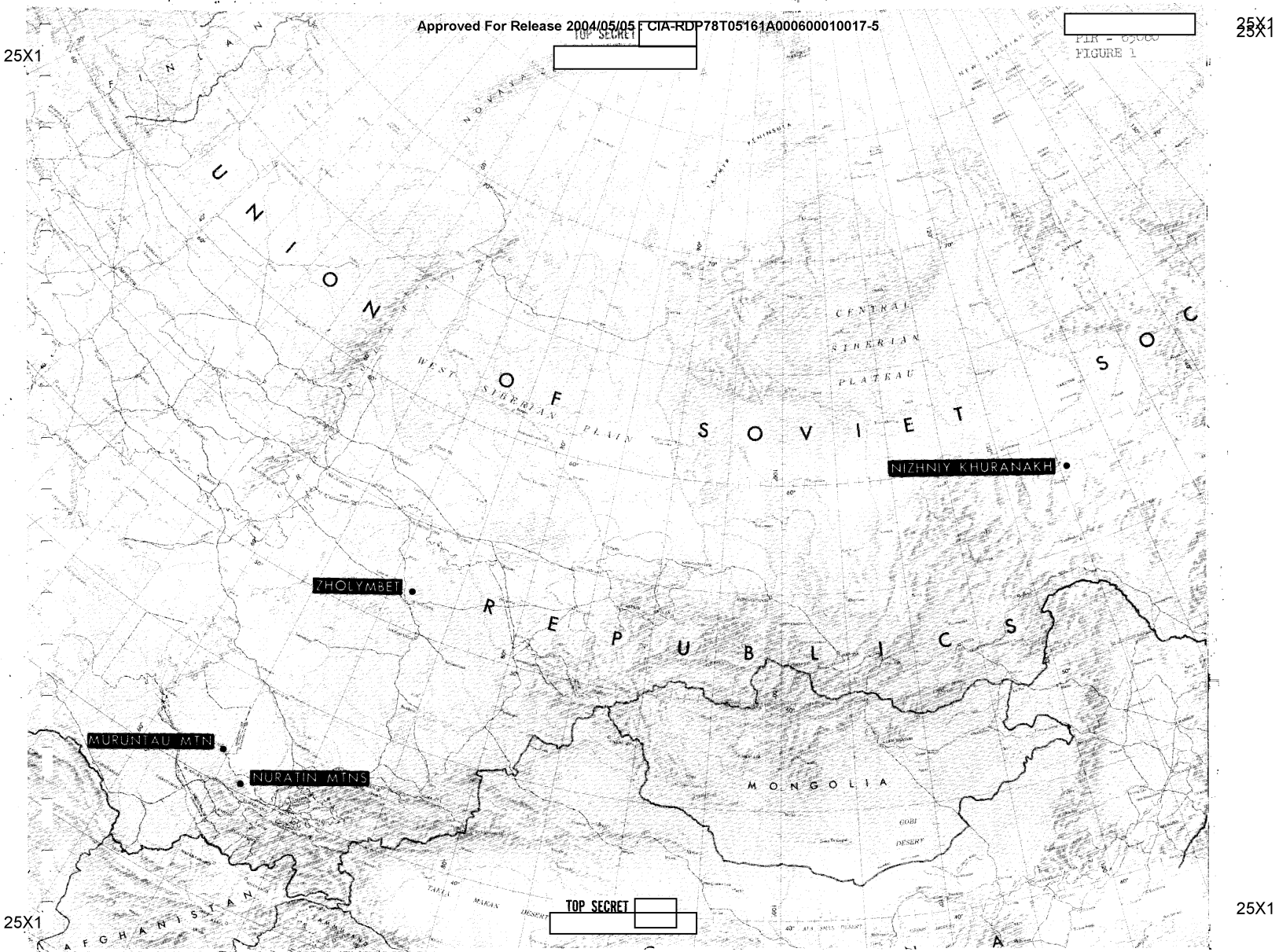
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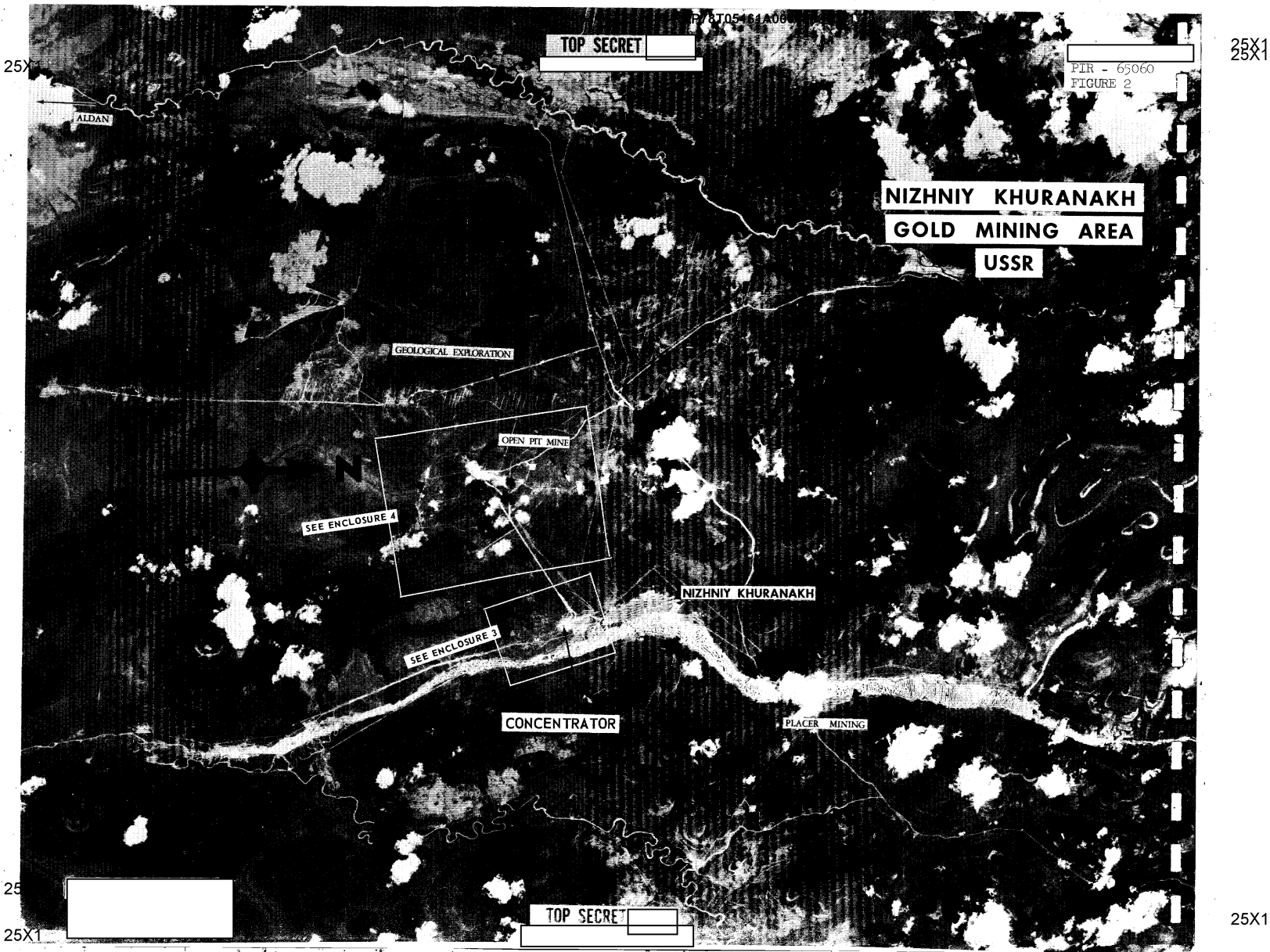
CIA/IAD PROJECT

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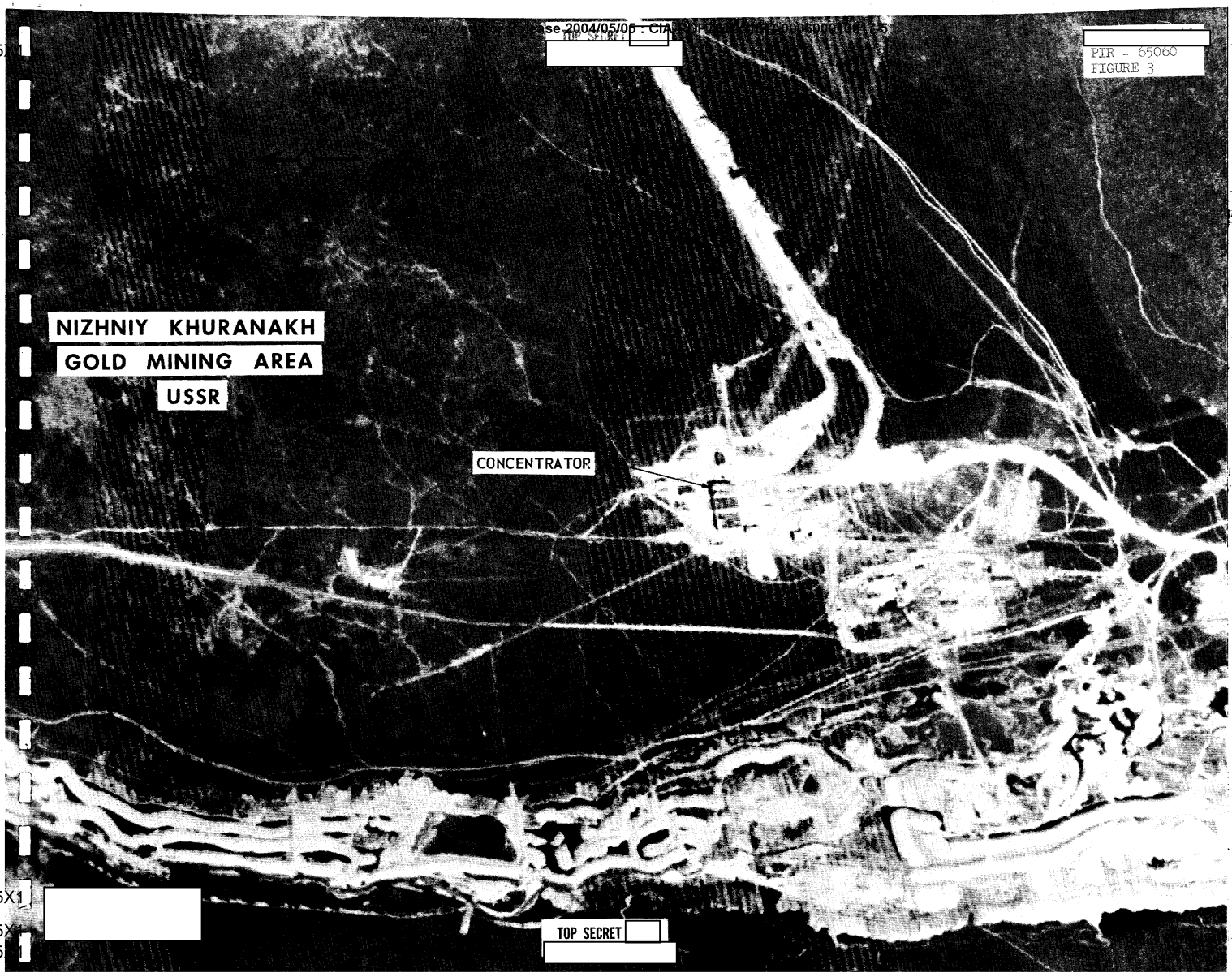
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FIGURE 3

NIZHNIY KHURANAKH
GOLD MINING AREA
USSR

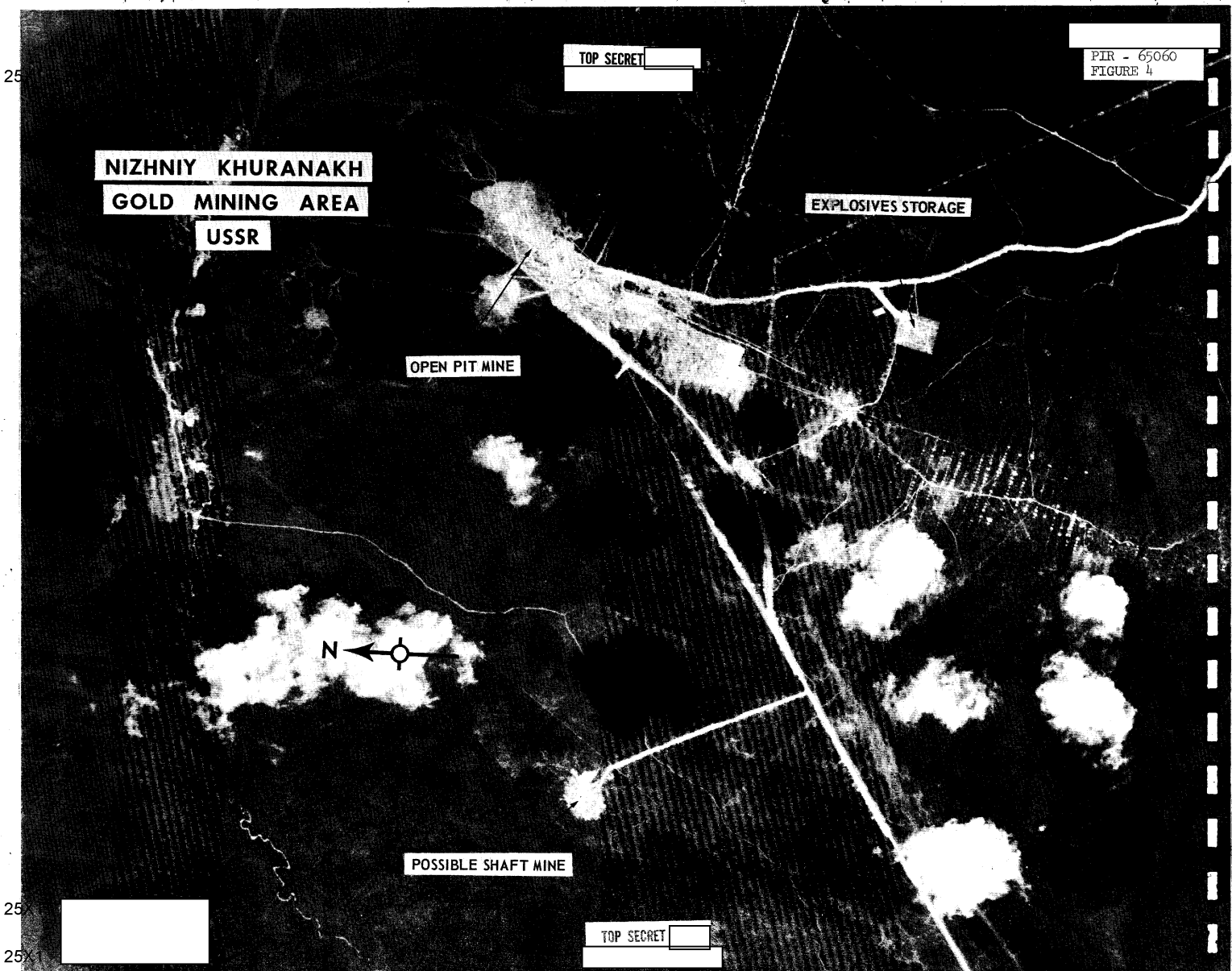
CONCENTRATOR

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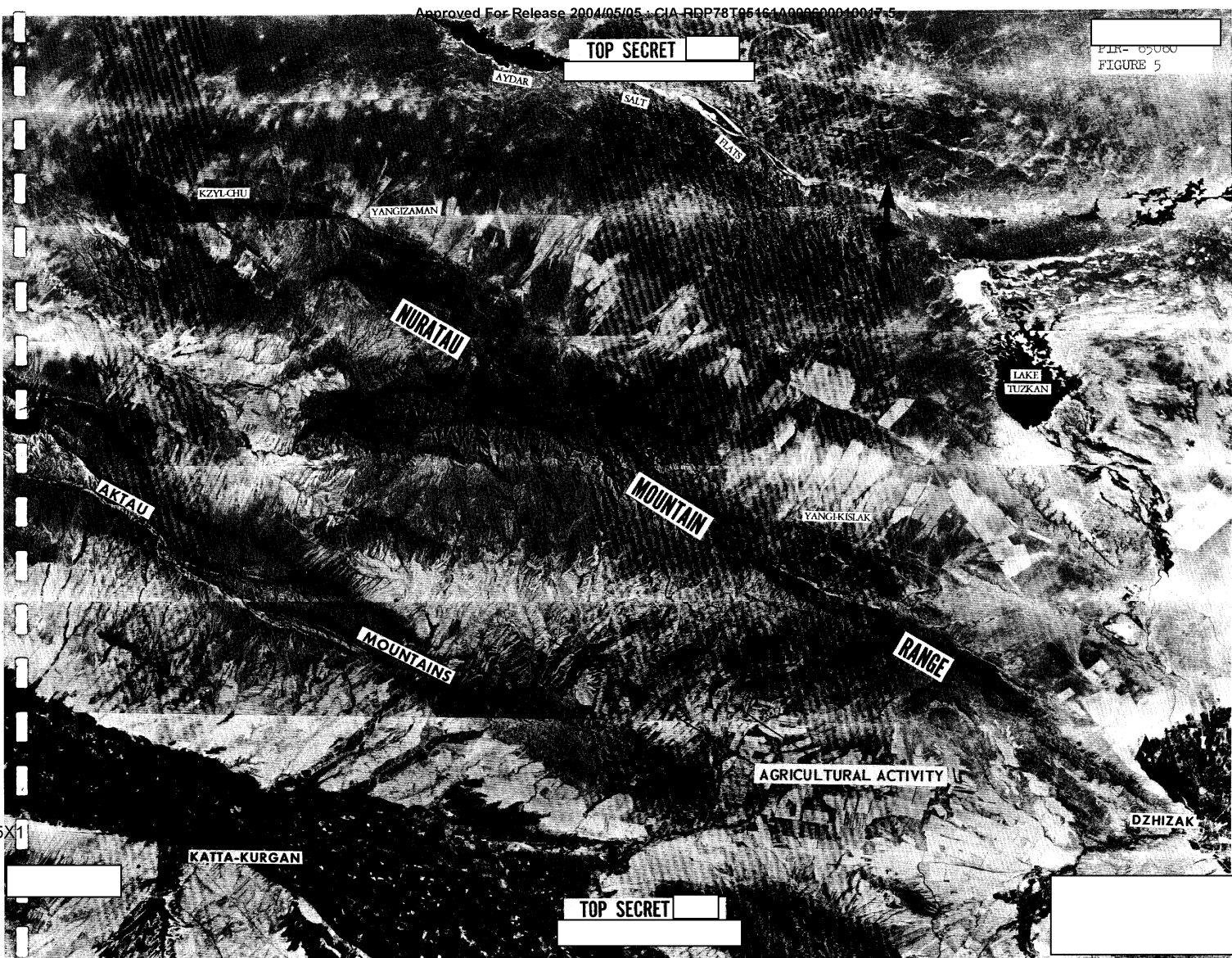
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FIGURE 6

MINING AREA
SEE ENCLOSURE 7

ZHOLYMBET
GOLD MINING AREA
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POWER PLANT

PROBABLE COAL MINE

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FIGURE 7

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ZHOLYMBET
GOLD MINING AREA
USSR

EXPLOSIVES STORAGE

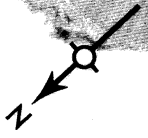
TAILING POND

OPEN PIT MINE

CONCENTRATOR

OPEN PIT MINE

PROBABLE ALLUVIAL MINE WITH CONCENTRATORS



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FIGURE 8

SEE ENCLOSURES 9 AND 10

NEW GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

MURUN-TAU

MURUN-TAU MOUNTAIN
GOLD MINING AREA
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MOUNTAIN



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FIGURE 9

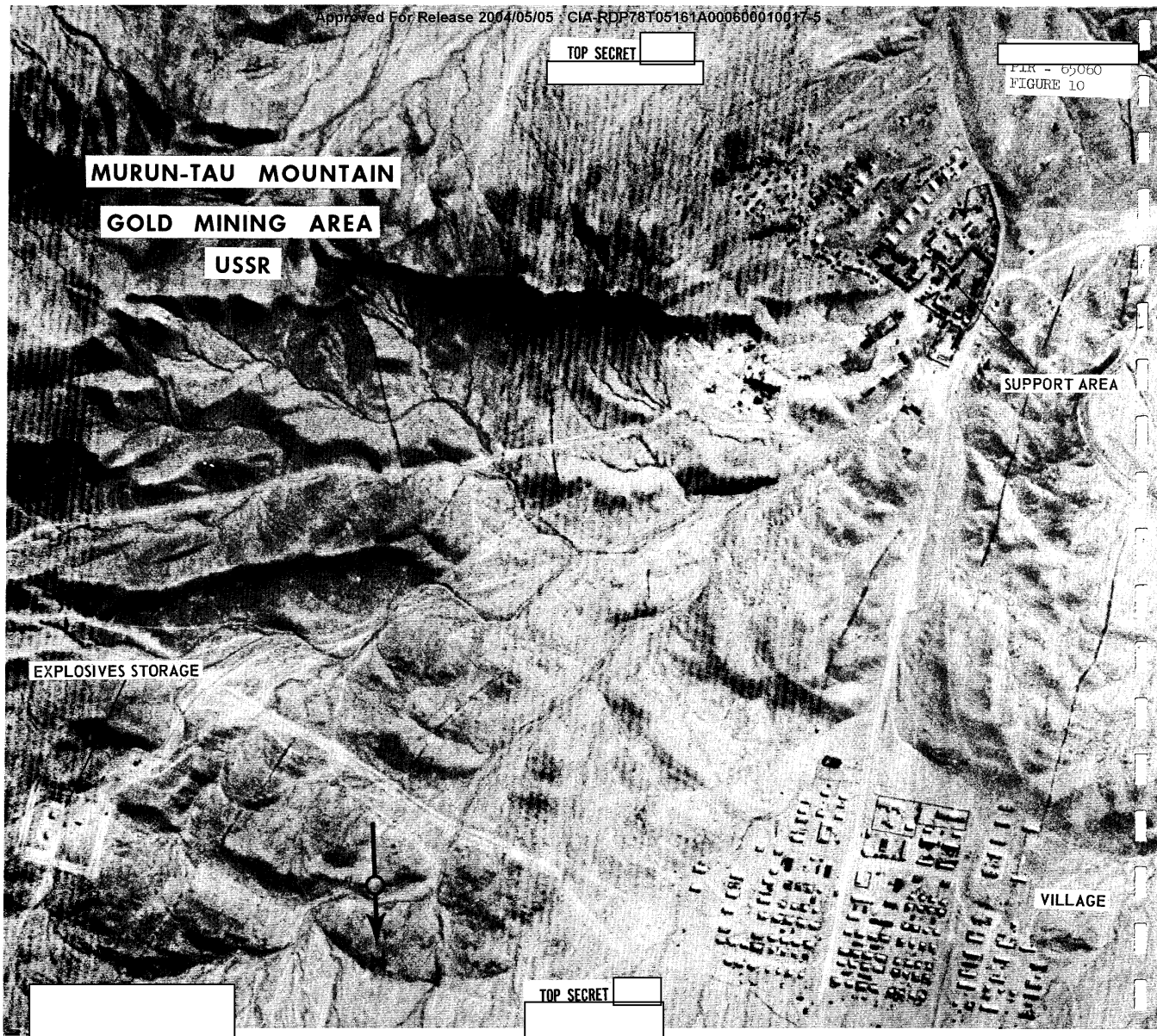
MURUN-TAU MOUNTAIN
GOLD MINING AREA
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SHAFT MINES

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